

portion of the fibrous tape beneath said hardenable liquid resin coating, the coloring agent being stably retained by the fibrous tape while the tape is in a soft state in the presence of the hardenable liquid resin, wherein after the liquid resin becomes hard there is substantially no adverse effect on the coloring agent.

8. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 1 comprising at least two different coloring agents visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape and forming a predetermined visible pattern of at least two colors on the fibrous tape, the coloring agents being stably retained by the fibrous tape in the presence of the hardenable liquid resin.

9. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 8 wherein the coloring agents visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape are pigment printed coloring agents.

10. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 8 wherein the coloring agents visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape are wet printed coloring agents.

11. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 8 wherein the coloring agents visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape are transfer printed coloring agents.

12. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape is a pigment printed coloring agent.

13. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape is a wet printed coloring agent.

14. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 1 wherein the coloring agent visibly disposed on [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape is a transfer printed coloring agent.

15. (Twice amended) An orthopedic cast bandage comprising:

- (a) an open mesh fibrous tape;
- (b) a hardenable liquid resin coated on the fibrous tape and being capable of curing to form a hardened plastic; and
- (c) at least one dye penetrated into or chemically bound to [at least] a major portion of the fibrous tape in a continuous pattern beneath said hardenable liquid resin coating while the tape is in a soft state, the dye being stably retained by the fibrous tape in the presence of the hardenable liquid resin, wherein after the liquid resin becomes hard there is substantially no adverse effect on the dye.

16. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 15 comprising at least two dyes penetrated into or chemically bound to [at least a portion of] the fibrous tape and forming a visible, dyed pattern of at least two colors on the fibrous tape.

21. (Amended) The orthopedic cast bandage of claim 15 wherein the dye penetrated into or chemically bound to

[at least a portion of] the fibrous tape comprises a sublimable disperse dye.

24. (Amended) An orthopedic cast comprising a plurality of layers of open mesh fibrous tape disposed within a hardened polymer matrix, wherein at least the outer layer of the open mesh fibrous tape comprises at least one dye penetrated into or chemically bound in a continuous pattern to [at least] a major portion of the fibrous tape while the tape is in a soft state, the dye being stably retained by the fibrous tape in the presence of the hardened polymeric matrix, wherein after the hardened polymeric matrix becomes hard there is substantially no adverse effect on the dye.

25. (Twice amended) A process for the production of an orthopedic cast bandage comprising the steps:

(a) contacting an open mesh fibrous tape with a substrate bearing a sublimable dye;

(b) heating the substrate and the open mesh fibrous tape to cause the sublimable dye to transfer to the open mesh fibrous tape and to thereby color [at least] a major portion of the open mesh fibrous tape in a continuous pattern; and

(c) coating the colored, open mesh fibrous tape with a liquid resin capable of curing to form a hardened plastic.

REMARKS

I. Response To Rejection

Applicants note the allowance of their claims 34-42, substantially copied from claims in Scholz et al. U.S. Patent 5,342,291 for the purposes of having an interference declared therewith